

THE WEST COLUMBIA BULLETIN

find any creature suitable to be his helper and companion in life. I should say not! What good would a mere beast be for Adam's companionship? So, God put Adam to sleep and took a rib out of him (Wow, I never saw anything like that before!), and made another whole creature from the rib bone. This being was completely different from the other creatures God had made, except for Adam. God called it "woman" (2:21-22). The new creature looks similar to Adam, but It isn't like him in every way. It is very clearly a female human, whereas Adam is a male. The proper pronoun for this person would be "she" or "her," but not "him." God did not make Adam another male for his mate. Something tells me this is going to become an issue down the road.

I don't see what all the fuss is about with this Eve woman, but Adam is clearly very pleased with her. In fact, he made a big pronouncement for the occasion. It was a little wordy for my taste, but I guess it was accurate: "*This is now bone of my bones And flesh of my flesh; She shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh*" (2:23-24). Wow, I just witnessed the first marriage. Adam and Eve seem pretty committed to the whole thing.

I bet I can wreck marriage someday. Somehow, I suspect that generations from now people won't take marriage as seriously as these two do. In fact, I'm going to think on this and figure out how to foul up this kind of union. It shouldn't be too tough. Maybe I can someday introduce the notion of men marrying men (and women marrying women) and see what kind of chaos that creates. We will see just how committed humans are to God's established authority and patterns as time passes.

Well, that's it for today. I will chime in later when there is something new to report. I have a feeling that the man and woman are going to be very much different in temperament, personality, and thinking. I can use that.

Church of Christ

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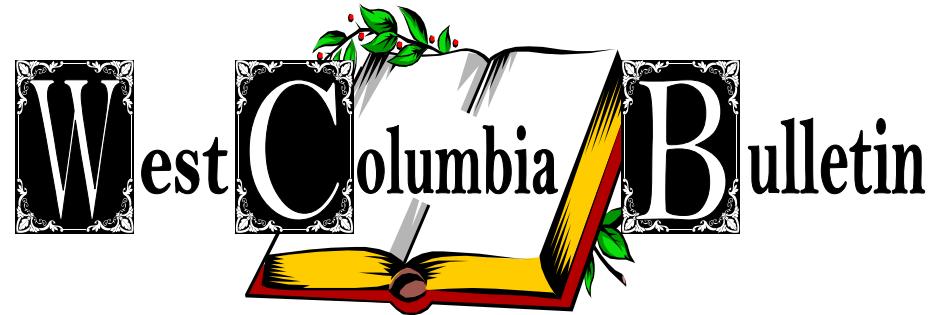
Schedule Of Services...

Sunday:

Bible Classes	9:00 a.m.
Worship	9:50 a.m.
Worship	6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:

Bible Classes	7:00 p.m.
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August 30, 2020

More Pages From The Devil's Diary

David Weakns

Dear Diary,

What you should know about me is that I am no one's friend, nor do I write these lines to tell "my side of the story" in order to garner sympathy. I have a hard won reputation for evil that I will continue to stoke until the Lord returns in judgment. Until then, I intend to do as much damage to mankind as I can.

The Bible makes it clear that I am going to lose in the end, and lose big. There is a whole book about that: *Revelation*. As if that were not enough, no matter how much I plot, scheme, and deceive, I keep losing. But, I persevere!

The Bible is very accurate in its description of me, and it shows that I'm plenty nasty. Just

look at these descriptions: I am *Satan* (Matthew 16:23; Acts 5:3), the "slanderer" or *devil* (Matthew 4:1), I am the *tempter* (Matthew 4:3), the *evil one* (Matthew 13:19), the *deceiver of the whole world* (Revelation 12:9), the *serpent of old* (Revelation 12:9; 20:2), I am the *accuser* (Revelation 12:10), the *cunning serpent* (2 Corinthians 11:3), the *dragon* (Revelation 12:9; 20:2), the *father of lies* (John 8:44), a *murderer* (John 8:44), the *god of this world* (2 Corinthians 4:4), the *ruler of this world* (John 14:30), man's *enemy* (Matthew 13:39), the *prince of the power of the air* (Ephesians 2:2), a *sinner from the beginning* (1 John 3:8), I am man's *adversary*, and I stalk like a *roaring lion, seeking whom I may*

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devour (1 Peter 5:8). All of these descriptions should be enough to warn you to steer clear of me, because I will push all of your buttons, and I will test every weakness that you have in order to prompt you to sin!

The Bible states very clearly that people simply have to resist me and I will flee from them (1 Peter 5:9; James 4:7), but I know most people won't resist me. They will gladly follow me anywhere I lead them, all for the promise of slaking their carnal appetites. They wander blindly into the traps I set for them, because I skillfully appeal to the lust of their flesh, their eyes, and their pride (1 John 2:15). I might indeed lose, but I will take as many humans with me as I can!

Dear Diary,

I am always amazed when people argue and debate about whether or not I really exist! Can you believe it? They claim to believe that the Bible is the word of God, but then they write me off as a make believe monster like Bigfoot. The Bible never calls me a myth, but people do. That just makes it easier for me to destroy them.

Skeptics like to argue about when I came into existence. Some say I'm eternal, although

the Bible says that only God is eternal (Genesis 1:1). The apostle John did *not* write: "*In the beginning was the Word (and the devil...)*" (John 1:1). It's hilarious to me how people can get so obsessed with non-essentials like my origin story.

They have even co-opted the description of earthly kings to explain where I came from. Somebody somewhere started calling me "Lucifer." Naturally, people then pointed to a text in Isaiah in which the prophet spoke of "*Lucifer*" the "*son of the morning*" who exalted himself above God and was cast down to hell (Isaiah 14:12-15). That wasn't me, folks, that was the king of Babylon (see: vs. 4)!

There is another text found in Ezekiel 28:12-19 which humans connect to my origin. I just don't get it! If you read carefully, you can't miss the fact that the pompous ruler of the text was the *king of Tyre*, not the devil! Does no one on earth understand figurative language? The King of Tyre was not literally in the Garden of Eden (vs. 13-17), nor was he literally an "*anointed cherub*." These figurative statements only add to the tragedy of his fall.

What carelessness! You humans latch onto a story or an idea, decide it is true, and then

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you grasp at random Bible verses here and there to support what you already believe. Is this how you studied in school? What a bunch of dummies!

For what it's worth, you should really worry more that I am here to destroy you, and forget trying to explain me away.

Dear Diary,

I have to agree with God that the earth is pretty great. Everything God created is indeed good (Genesis 1:4, 10, 12, 18, 21, 25). There is no reason to complain about the Garden of Eden, either. It has all of the things in it that God's creation could ever need for food (2:8-9). Don't misunderstand, I'm not happy about all of this goodness, but give credit where credit is due. There is plenty of water because of the confluence of several rivers (2:10-14). Everywhere you look the garden is teeming with life. It is dominated by a really special tree in the middle of the garden (2:9). I asked around and discovered it is the "*tree of the knowledge of good and evil*" (2:9). I plan to use that tidbit of information very soon!

God created another creature that He is calling "man" (vs. 8, 15). Then God put this "man"

creature over all that He created and assigned the man the job of tending the garden.

It turns out the man has a name, and it is *Adam*. Adam must be very special to God and he must also be a moral being because he has been given commands to obey.

Target identified and acquired! Let's get to work. Adam doesn't look that smart to me. This should be easy.

Dear Diary,

I have been watching Adam for a while now; getting a bead on my enemy, so to speak. There is just one human being on the whole planet, so I might as well find out what his weaknesses are, and then savor his destruction.

I have to tell you about a curious thing that happened shortly after Adam's creation. There was a day on which Adam was tasked with naming all of the creatures in the garden. Don't ask me how Adam came up with the names: "*giraffe*," "*cow*," "*fish*," "*elephant*," "*hare*," "*hummingbird*...;" who knows? Whatever Adam called an animal, that is what it would be known as from then on (2:19-20). Imagine that!

However, in the whole naming business Adam didn't